

## Message Text

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12

ACTION SWF-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05

EB-07 IO-10 RSC-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 OIC-02 SP-02 /056 W

----- 047328

R 020650Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9438

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 7060

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

KUWAIT PASS DOHA

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, SA, US

SUBJ: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE; POST MORTEM

REF : STATE 261626

BEGIN SUMMARY: HEAD OF SAUDI DELEGATION TO WORLD FOOD

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CONFERENCE DEP MINISTER TAHER OBAID FEELS THAT SAUDI ROLE

WAS HELPFUL TO U.S. INTERESTS AND THAT OPEC DRAFTING OF PROPOSAL FOR WORLD AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND WAS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES. OBAID WOULD HAVE ENJOYED SOME CONTACT WITH AMERICAN DELEGATION AND DESIRES FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE WFC AND ITS AFTERMATH. END SUMMARY.

1. DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE TAHER OBAID DISCUSSED WITH ECON COUNSELOR NOV 24 WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ROME AT WHICH HE HAD HEADED THE SAUDI DELEGATION. OBAID SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN A DIFFICULT CONFERENCE, WITH SESSIONS FROM EARLY MORNING UNTIL LATE AT NIGHT AND THAT HE HAD BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GROUP OF 77 AND WITH ARAB DELEGATIONS REGARDING THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL TO CREATE THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND. HE HAD PERSONALLY DRAFTED MUCH OF THE PROPOSAL. THE ALGERIANS IN PARTICULAR WERE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND OPPOSED TO MANY OF THE SAUDI PROPOSALS ON WORDING WHICH WERE AIMED AT AROUSING A MINIMUM OF OPPOSITION FROM THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD. OBAID NOTED THAT MOST OF THE 77 HAD BEEN DISTURBED BY THE LACK OF COMMITMENT BY TRADITIONAL DONORS OF FOOD, PARTICULARLY THE U.S. HOWEVER, EGYPT HAD BEEN VERY HELPFUL TO SAUDI ARABIA AND WAS SUPPORTIVE OF ITS EFFORTS IN CREATING A FUND THAT WOULD EVENTUALLY DECREASE THE AMOUNT OF NECESSARY DIRECT FOOD AID. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF QATAR HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO VOTE WITH AND HELP THE SAUDIS IN ALL INSTANCES. OBAID POINTED OUT THAT OVER-ALL, THE SAUDI ROLE HAD BEEN MOST HELPFUL TO THE U.S. AT ROME.

2. OBAID SAID THAT HE HAD HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO MEET ANYONE FROM THE AMERICAN DELEGATION, WHICH HE THOUGHT WAS A PITY. THE MINISTRY WOULD BE NOMINATING SOMEONE TO WORK ON THE DEVELOPMENT FUND, AND HE HOPED THAT SUCH WORK COULD BE DONE IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. (OBAID IS THE HEAD OF THE AGRICULTURAL WORKING GROUP UNDER THE U.S./ SAUDI ECONOMIC COMMISSION AND IS U.S. EDUCATED.)

4. OBAID SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO BE KEPT INFORMED ABOUT ALL DEVELOPMENTS STEMMING FROM THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE.  
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ENCE--COPIES OF WIRELESS FILE MATERIAL WERE GIVEN TO HIM.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: SUGGEST SPECIAL PACKET OF MATERIAL MIGHT BE SENT HIM THROUGH EMBASSY, IF POSSIBLE WITH PERSONAL LETTER FROM SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.  
AKINS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MEETING REPORTS, WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Reference:** STATE 261626  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>  
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**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE; POST MORTEM  
**TAGS:** EAGR, SA, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005